

NSC BRIEFING

FAURE CANDIDACY FOR FRENCH PREMIERSHIP

I. Faure wily politico:

- A. Represents all-things-to-all-men political approach which can resolve no basic issues.
- B. Despite broad support to right of Socialists,
 - 1. Left-wing MRP Radicals and Gaullists hesitant to accept Independent bloc support in face of Socialist opposition.
 - 2. Mende-France followers would prefer clearly defined rightist premier and government in order leave left-center leadership to Radicals.
 - a. Mende-France reported doing everything he could to sabotage Faure's candidacy.
- C. Constitutional requirement that cabinet and premier-designate be presented simultaneously to Assembly more than counter-balanced relaxation of requirement for absolute majority for investiture.
 - 1. Both changes voted on second reading on 30 November 54 with support of Mende-France who urged Assembly clear up legislative calendar.
 - 2. In no sense a real reform, but opens possibility for further change in 1956 constitution.

II. Will press for approval of Paris agreements:

- A. Faure reported well aware US suspicions following his defection over EDC, and he is most anxious gain US confidence through early ratification.

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1. Faure's first objective will be Senate approval without amendment.

B. Pinay in Foreign Ministry well suited to get French approval nevertheless.

C. Palanski in newly created Ministry for International Organizations is danger:

1. Following Malenkov ouster hounded West "continuing to follow the sad road of an outdated policy: First EDC, then the Paris agreements before negotiations."
 2. Gaullist executive committee 8 February declaration of policy: Paris agreements should be subordinated to complete and rapid exploration of the possibilities of talks with the East.
 - a. assures amendment will be proposed by Gaullists.
- D. Well-organized campaign of Communists and other opponents to influence Senators against accords:
1. Pro-accords Gaullist Senator Debre thinks constant stream of letters (about 15 per day) beginning to make serious dents.
 - a. Senator recognizes Communist inspiration of letters but are influenced because they come from prominent non-Communist constituents.
 2. Half of senators up for re-election in June.
 - a. Humanite running daily lists of their names.
 - b. Campaign of posters showing poignant local scene under German occupation and portrait of local deputy under big headline: This man voted for German Rearmament.

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3. Two organizations conducting pro-accords campaign.
 - a. National movement of local office holders sending 100,000 pro-WEU letters to municipal and departmental councilors.
 - b. Socialist office holders' association
 1. Backing appeal above
 2. Distributing similar appeal to 8-10,000 members, quoting Mayor of Marseille's attack on Communist-inspired letters.
 - c. Senators of at least one Dept (Rhone) circularized departmental councilors with strong condemnation of Communist campaign.

SITUATION IN FRANCE

I. Faure wily politico:

- A. Represents all-things-to-all-men political approach which can resolve no basic issues.
- B. Large majority on investiture no guarantee of stable coalition:

II. Faure committed to press for approval of Paris agreements:

- A. Faure reported well aware US suspicions following his defection over EDC, and he is most anxious gain US confidence through early ratification.
 - 1. Deadline for Council action 1 April.

Nevertheless,

- B. Palewski in newly created Ministry for International Organizations is danger:
 - 1. Bemoaned West "continuing to follow the sad road of an outmoded policy: first EDC, then the Paris agreements, before negotiations."

2. Amendment will be proposed by

Gaullists in the Council.

C. Well-organized campaign of Communist and other opponents to influence Senators against accords:

1. Letters (about 15 per day to each senator) beginning to make serious dents.

a. Senators recognize Communist inspiration of letters but are influenced because they come from prominent non-Communist constituents.

2. Half of senators up for re-election in June.

a. Humanite running daily lists of their names and urging pressure on them.

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b. Campaign of posters showing poignant local scenes under German occupation and portrait of local deputies under big headlines: This man voted for German Rearmament.

3. Two organizations conducting pro-accords campaign.

a. National Movement of Local Office-holders sending 100,000 pro-WEU letters to municipal and departmental councilors.

b. Socialist Office-holders' Association

1. Distributing similar appeal.